REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held December 14, 2006, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained the presently-claimed invention and why it is patentable over the applied prior art. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 5,736,246 (Augier et al), is respectfully traversed.

The present claims require at least one silane satisfying the following formula:

$$Si\ (R^1)\ (R^2)\ (R^3)\ (R^4)$$

wherein, *inter alia*, $R^4 = -R^7\text{-}NHR^8$, wherein R^7 is selected from branched hydrocarbon radicals having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms in the main chain, and R^8 is selected from the group consisting of -H, $-R^9\text{-}NH_2$, and $-R^{10}\text{-}NH\text{-}R^9\text{-}NH_2$, wherein R^9 and R^{10} may be hydrocarbon radicals.

Augier et al is drawn to a sizing composition comprising a particular silane, which silane includes at least one unsaturated ring substituted with at least one unsaturated chain conjugated with the unsaturated ring (column 2, lines 39-52). Particularly, Augier et al's silane has the formula Si (R^1) (R^2) (R^3) (R^4), wherein R^4 is a hydrocarbon radical optionally containing nitrogen and includes at least one unsaturated ring substituted with at least one unsaturated chain conjugated with the ring (column 3, lines 1-4), and preferably is $R^5\phi R^6$, wherein ϕ is an unsaturated ring, R^6 is an unsaturated chain conjugated with the ring, preferably $R^6 = -(CH{=}CH)_m\text{-}H$, and R^5 is linear or branched and may be a succession of $-(CH_2)\text{-}NH-$ groups (column 5, line 52 through column 6, line 15).

As Applicants' attorney pointed out during the above-referenced interview, the R^4 group of the presently-recited silane **must** contain a terminal NH_2 group, regardless of the

member chosen from the R^8 Markush group. The corresponding R^4 group in Augier et al **cannot** contain a terminal NH_2 group. Rather, it would appear to require a terminal unsaturated hydrocarbon chain. Nor does Augier et al suggest modifying their R^4 group to contain a terminal NH_2 group.

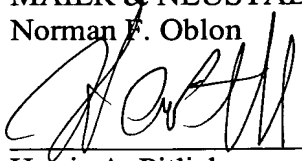
In addition, while not necessary to establish patentability herein in view of the above distinctions, nevertheless, the comparative data in the specification herein demonstrates that when R^7 is branched, compared to R^7 being straight-chain, improved results are obtained, as described in the previous response. Augier et al does not recognize any advantage of using a branched chain.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Harris A. Pitlick
Registration No. 38,779

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

NFO:HAP